

In the Claims:

Cancel withdrawn claims 47-50, 61, 167-424 without prejudice or estoppel.

Cancel rejected claims 51-60, 62-66, 68, 111, 112, 116 without prejudice or estoppel.

Amend claims 67, 69, 70, 74, 75, 77, 79, 108, 109, 110, 115, 117, 120 as follows:

1        47.    (Cancelled)

1        48.    (Cancelled )

1        49.    (Cancelled)

1        50.    (Cancelled)

1        51.    (Cancelled)

1        52.    (Cancelled)

1        53.    (Cancelled)

1        54.    (Cancelled)

1        55.    (Cancelled)

1        56.    (Cancelled)

1 57. (Cancelled)

1 58. (Cancelled)

1 59. (Cancelled)

1 60. (Cancelled)

1 61. (Cancelled)

1 62. (Cancelled)

1 63. (Cancelled)

1 64. (Cancelled)

1 65. (Cancelled)

1 66. (Cancelled)

1 67. (Currently Amended) A method of locating a graft assembly in  
2 relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly  
3 including (i) a graft having an orifice at an end thereof, and (ii) a plurality of arms  
4 extending away from the orifice at the end of the graft, comprising the steps of:  
5 aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and

6 locating the plurality of arms through the arteriotomy and within the blood  
7 vessel.

1 68. (Cancelled)

1 69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, ~~where~~ wherein  
2 each of the plurality of arms extends through the arteriotomy and is located  
3 adjacent to a an interior wall of the blood vessel.

1 70. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 67 wherein~~ locating  
2 a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the  
3 graft assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice; and (ii) a plurality of arms  
4 extending away from the orifice of the graft, and (iii): ~~the graft assembly further~~  
5 ~~includes~~ a flange portion, ~~and~~ with each of the plurality of arms are positioned in  
6 contact with the flange portion-, the method comprising the steps of:  
7 aligning the orifice of the graft assembly with the arteriotomy; and  
8 locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel.

1 71. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein at least a part of each of  
2 the plurality of arms is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

1 72. (Original) The method of claim 67, wherein the blood vessel is an  
2 aorta.

1           73. (Original) The method of claim 67, wherein the graft is a synthetic  
2 graft.

1           74. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 67, wherein each of~~  
2 ~~the plurality of arms extends radially away from the orifice of the graft. locating a~~  
3 graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft  
4 assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice, and (ii) a plurality of arms  
5 extending radially away from the orifice of the graft, comprising the steps of:  
6 aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and  
7 locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel.

1           75. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 67, further locating a~~  
2 graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft  
3 assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice, and (ii) a plurality of arms  
4 extending away from the orifice of the graft, comprising the steps of:  
5 ~~prior to the aligning step,~~ locating the graft within a delivery device; and  
6 advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the graft is  
7 located within the delivery device;  
8 aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and  
9 locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel;

10 wherein each of the plurality of arms is located in a first position in relation  
11 to the graft during the advancing step, and

12 wherein each of the plurality of arms moves from the first position to a  
13 second position in relation to the graft after the advancing step.

1 76. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 arms moves from the first position to the second position due to spring action.

1 77. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 67, wherein the~~  
2 ~~plurality of arms includes at least four (4) arms.~~ locating a graft assembly in  
3 relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly  
4 including (i) a graft having an orifice, and (ii) a plurality of arms including at least  
5 four (4) arms extending away from the orifice of the graft, comprising the steps of:  
6 aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and  
7 locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel.

1 78. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 arms is maintained in the first position by an inner wall of the delivery device.

1 79. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 67, further~~ locating a  
2 graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft  
3 assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice, and (ii) a plurality of arms  
4 extending away from the orifice of the graft, comprising the steps of:

5        aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy;

6        locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel; and

7        inhibiting movement of the graft in a direction away from the blood vessel  
8        due to physical interaction between the plurality of arms and the blood vessel.

1        80.    (Original) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an  
2        arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and  
3        a resilient support secured thereto, comprising the steps of:

4        locating the graft within a delivery device;

5        advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the graft is  
6        located within the delivery device; and

7        removing the graft from the delivery device after the advancing step,  
8        wherein the resilient support is maintained in a first configuration during the  
9        advancing step, and

10       wherein the resilient support moves from the first configuration to a second  
11       configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

1        81.    (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein after the removing step:  
2        a first portion of the resilient support is located adjacent to a sidewall of the  
3        blood vessel when the resilient support is positioned in the second configuration.

1        82.    (Original) The method of claim 81, wherein after the removing step:

2 a second portion of the resilient support extends in a direction away from the  
3 blood vessel when the resilient support is positioned in the second configuration.

1 83. (Original) The method of claim 82, wherein after the removing step:  
2 at least some of the first portion is located within the blood vessel, and  
3 at least some of the second portion is located outside of the blood vessel.

1 84. (Original) The method of claim 82, wherein after the removing step:  
2 all of the first portion is located outside of the blood vessel, and  
3 all of the second portion is located outside of the blood vessel.

1 85. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein:  
2 the graft assembly further includes a flange portion, and  
3 at least some of the resilient support is positioned in contact with the flange  
4 portion.

1 86. (Original) The method of claim 85, wherein the at least some of the  
2 resilient support is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

1 87. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the blood vessel is an  
2 aorta.

1 88. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the graft is a synthetic  
2 graft.

1           89.   (Original) The method of claim 82, wherein after the removing step:  
2           the second portion of the resilient support extends radially away from an  
3           orifice of the graft when the resilient support is positioned in the second  
4           configuration.

1           90.   (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the resilient support  
2           includes a plurality of spring arms.

1           91.   (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the plurality of spring  
2           arms includes at least four (4) spring arms.

1           92.   (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the resilient support  
2           member is maintained in the first configuration due to physical interaction with an  
3           inner wall of the delivery device.

1           93.   (Original) The method of claim 80, further comprising the step of  
2           inhibiting movement of the graft in a direction away from the blood vessel with the  
3           resilient support while the resilient support is positioned in the second  
4           configuration.

1           94.   (Original) A method of placing a graft assembly in relation to an  
2           arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and  
3           a plurality of spring arms, comprising the steps of:

4 aligning an orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and  
5 locating the plurality of spring arms adjacent to a wall of the blood vessel.

1 95. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the plurality of spring  
2 arms are located within the blood vessel after the locating step.

1 96. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the plurality of spring  
2 arms are located outside of the blood vessel after the locating step.

1 97. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the blood vessel is an  
2 aorta.

1 98. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the graft is a synthetic  
2 graft.

1 99. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 spring arms is located adjacent to an end of the graft.

1 100. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 spring arms is located adjacent to the orifice of the graft.

1 101. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein:  
2 the graft assembly further includes a flange portion, and  
3 each of the plurality of spring arms is positioned in contact with the flange  
4 portion.

1           102. (Original) The method of claim 101, wherein at least a part of each of  
2 the plurality of spring arms is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

1           103. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 spring arms extends radially away from the orifice of the graft after the locating  
3 step.

1           104. (Original) The method of claim 94, further comprising the steps of:  
2 prior to the aligning step, locating the graft within a delivery device; and  
3 advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the graft is  
4 located within the delivery device,

5 wherein each of the plurality of spring arms is located in a first position in  
6 relation to the graft during the advancing step, and

7 wherein each of the plurality of spring arms moves from the first position to  
8 a second position in relation to the graft after the advancing step.

1           105. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the plurality of spring  
2 arms includes at least four (4) spring arms.

1           106. The method of claim 104, wherein each of the plurality of spring arms  
2 is maintained in the first position due to physical interaction with an inner wall of  
3 the delivery device.

1           107. (Original) The method of claim 94, further comprising the step of  
2   inhibiting movement of the graft in a direction away from the blood vessel due to  
3   physical interaction between the plurality of spring arms and an interior wall of the  
4   blood vessel.

1           108. (Currently Amended)   An anastomosis method for placing in a  
2   blood vessel a conduit assembly including a blood-flow conduit having a resilient  
3   flange integrally formed on an end thereof, the method comprising:

4           placing a the conduit assembly ~~adjacent to~~ in an arteriotomy defined in a  
5   blood vessel; in alignment of ~~wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow~~  
6   ~~conduit and a resilient member secured thereto, and wherein the placing step~~  
7   ~~includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the~~  
8   arteriotomy, ~~(ii) locating~~ with a first portion of the conduit assembly including the  
9   resilient ~~member~~ flange within the blood vessel, and ~~(iii) locating~~ a second portion  
10   of the ~~resilient member~~ conduit assembly outside of the blood vessel.

1           109. (Currently Amended)   The An anastomosis method ~~of claim 108,~~  
2   comprising:

3           placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood  
4   vessel;

5        wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient  
6 member secured thereto; and

7        wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the  
8 blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a first portion of the resilient  
9 member within the blood vessel, and (iii) locating a second portion of the resilient  
10 member outside of the blood vessel; and

11        wherein the first portion locating step includes the steps of:  
12        bending the resilient member to a first configuration;  
13        advancing the first portion of the resilient member through the arteriotomy  
14 while the resilient member is in the first configuration; and  
15        allowing the resilient member to move from the first configuration to a  
16 second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

1        110. (Currently Amended)    ~~The~~ An anastomosis method of claim 109,  
2 comprising:

3        placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood  
4 vessel;

5        wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient  
6 member secured thereto; and

7        wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the  
8 blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a first portion of the resilient

9 member within the blood vessel, and (iii) locating a second portion of the resilient  
10 member outside of the blood vessel; and

11 wherein the first portion locating step further includes the step of positioning  
12 the first portion of the resilient member adjacent to a wall of the blood vessel.

1 111. (Cancelled)

1 112. (Cancelled)

1 113. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An anastomosis method of claim 108,  
2 ~~wherein the blood vessel is comprising:~~

3 placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in an a blood  
4 ~~vessel~~ aorta;

5 wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient  
6 member secured thereto; and

7 wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the  
8 blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a first portion of the resilient  
9 member within blood vessel the aorta, and (iii) locating a second portion of the  
10 resilient member outside of the blood vessel aorta.

1 114. (Original) The method of claim 108, wherein the blood flow  
2 conduit is a synthetic graft.

1           115. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 108, wherein the ~~first~~  
2 ~~portion of the~~ conduit assembly includes resilient member members in the flange  
3 that each extends inside the blood vessel radially away from the orifice of the  
4 blood flow conduit and extends through the arteriotomy in contact with and along  
5 the blood flow conduit after the ~~first portion locating~~ placing step.

1           116. (Cancelled)

1           117. (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ An anastomosis method of claim 108,  
2 comprising:

3           placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood  
4 vessel;

5           wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient  
6 member secured thereto; and

7           wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the  
8 blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a ~~the~~ first portion of the  
9 resilient member ~~includes~~ including a plurality of struts within the blood vessel,  
10 and (iii) locating a second portion of the resilient member outside of the blood  
11 vessel.

1           118. (Original)   The method of claim 117, wherein the second portion of  
2 the resilient member is attached to the graft.

1 119. (Original) The method of claim 117, wherein the plurality of struts  
2 includes at least four (4) struts.

1 120. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An anastomosis method of claim 108,  
2 ~~further comprising the step of~~

3 placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood  
4 vessel;

5 wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient  
6 member secured thereto; and

7 inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit in a direction away from the  
8 blood vessel due to physical interaction between the first portion of the resilient  
9 member and the blood vessel;

10 wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the  
11 blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a first portion of the resilient  
12 member within the blood vessel, and (iii) locating a second portion of the resilient  
13 member outside of the blood vessel.

1 121. (Original) A method of positioning a conduit assembly in relation to  
2 an arteriotomy, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a  
3 strut assembly, comprising the steps of:

4 placing the blood flow conduit within an interior space of a delivery device;  
5 and

6 advancing a distal end of the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while  
7 the blood flow conduit is located within the interior space of the delivery device;

8 wherein the strut assembly is positioned in a first configuration during the  
9 advancing step; and

10 wherein the strut assembly moves from the first configuration to a second  
11 configuration after the advancing step.

1 122. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the strut assembly  
2 includes a plurality of struts.

1 123. (Original) The method of claim 122, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 struts extend outwardly from an orifice of the blood flow conduit when the strut  
3 assembly is positioned in the second configuration.

1 124. (Original) The method of claim 123, further comprising the step of  
2 aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy.

1 125. (Original) The method of claim 121, further comprising the step of  
2 positioning each of the plurality of struts adjacent to a wall of the blood vessel after  
3 the advancing step.

1           126. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein each of the plurality of  
2           struts is located within the blood vessel after the positioning step.

1           127. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein each of the plurality of  
2           struts is located outside of the blood vessel after the positioning step.

1           128. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein each of the plurality of  
2           struts is located adjacent to an end of the blood flow conduit.

1           129. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein:  
2           the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion, and  
3           each of the plurality of struts is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

1           130. (Original) The method of claim 129, wherein at least a part of each of  
2           the plurality of struts is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

1           131. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the blood vessel is an  
2           aorta.

1           132. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the graft is a synthetic  
2           graft.

1           133. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the strut assembly  
2           moves from the first configuration to the second configuration due to spring action.

1           134. (Original) The method of claim 122, wherein the plurality of struts  
2 includes at least four (4) struts.

1           135. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the strut assembly is  
2 maintained in the first configuration due to physical interaction with an inner wall  
3 of the delivery device.

1           136. (Original) The method of claim 121, further comprising the step of  
2 inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit in a direction away from a blood  
3 vessel in which the arteriotomy is defined due to physical interaction between the  
4 strut assembly and the blood vessel when the strut assembly is in the second  
5 configuration.

1           137. (Original) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an  
2 opening defined in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood  
3 flow conduit and a plurality of struts, comprising:

4           advancing the plurality of struts into the blood vessel through the opening;  
5 and

6           aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the opening defined in the  
7 blood vessel.

1           138. (Original) The method of claim 137, further comprising the step of  
2 locating the plurality of struts adjacent to an interior wall of the blood vessel.

1           139. (Original) The method of claim 138, further comprising the step of  
2 urging each of the plurality of struts against the interior wall of the blood vessel.

1           140. (Original) The method of claim 139, wherein the urging step includes  
2 the step of placing a stent within the blood vessel and adjacent to the plurality of  
3 struts to urge the struts against the interior wall of the blood vessel.

1           141. (Original) The method of claim 138, wherein the locating step  
2 includes the step of positioning each of the plurality of struts to extend radially  
3 away from the opening defined in the blood vessel.

1           142. (Original) The method of claim 137, further including the steps of:  
2 prior to the aligning step, locating the graft within a delivery device; and  
3 moving the delivery device toward the opening defined in the blood vessel  
4 while the graft is located within the delivery device;  
5 wherein each of the plurality of struts is located in a first physical  
6 arrangement in relation to the blood flow conduit during the moving step; and  
7 wherein each of the plurality of struts is reconfigured from the first physical  
8 arrangement to a second physical arrangement in relation to the blood flow conduit  
9 after the moving step.

1           143. (Original) The method of claim 142, wherein each of the plurality of  
2   struts moves from the first physical arrangement to the second physical  
3   arrangement due to spring action.

1           144. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein each of the plurality of  
2   struts is located adjacent to an end of the blood flow conduit.

1           145. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein:  
2   the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion; and  
3   each of the plurality of struts is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

1           146. (Original) The method of claim 145, wherein each of the plurality of  
2   struts is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

1           147. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein the blood vessel is an  
2   aorta.

1           148. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein the blood flow conduit  
2   is a synthetic graft.

1           149. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein each of the plurality of  
2   struts extends radially away from the orifice of the blood flow conduit after the  
3   advancing step.

1           150. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein the plurality of struts  
2 includes at least four (4) struts.

1           151. (Original) The method of claim 142, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 struts is maintained in the first configuration by an inner wall of the delivery  
3 device.

1           152. (Original) The method of claim 137, further comprising the step of  
2 inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit in a direction away from the blood  
3 vessel due to physical interaction between the plurality of struts and the blood  
4 vessel.

1           153. (Original) A method of placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an  
2 arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, the conduit assembly including a blood flow  
3 conduit and a resilient support secured thereto, comprising the steps of:

4           bending the resilient support into a first configuration,  
5           advancing the resilient support partially through the arteriotomy while the  
6 resilient member is in the first configuration, and

7           allowing the resilient support to move from the first configuration to a  
8 second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

1           154. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein the blood vessel is an  
2 aorta.

1           155. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein the blood flow conduit  
2 is a synthetic graft.

1           156. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein:  
2           the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion;  
3           the resilient support includes at least one arm; and  
4           the at least one arm is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

1           157. (Original) The method of claim 156, wherein at least one arm is  
2 integrally positioned within the flange portion.

1           158. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein at least one arm extends  
2 radially away from an orifice of the blood flow conduit after the allowing step.

1           159. (Original) The method of claim 153, further comprising the steps of:  
2           prior to the advancing step, locating the blood flow conduit within a delivery  
3 device; and  
4           advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the blood flow  
5 conduit is located within the delivery device.

1           160. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein the resilient support  
2 includes a plurality of arms.

1           161. (Original) The method of claim 160, wherein the plurality of arms  
2 includes at least four (4) arms which are spaced apart from each other.

1           162. (Original) The method of claim 159, wherein the resilient support  
2 member is maintained in the first configuration due to physical interaction with an  
3 inner wall of the delivery device.

1           163. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein the allowing step is  
2 performed while a first portion of the resilient support is positioned on a first side  
3 of the arteriotomy and a second portion of the resilient support is positioned on a  
4 second side of the arteriotomy.

1           164. (Original) The method of claim 163, wherein:  
2 the first portion of the resilient support is positioned within the blood vessel,  
3 and  
4 the second portion of the resilient support is positioned outside of the blood  
5 vessel.

1           165. (Original) The method of claim 164, wherein the first portion of the  
2 resilient support includes a plurality of support arms.

1           166. (Original) The method of claim 153, further comprising the step of  
2 inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit away from the blood vessel due to

- 3 physical interaction between the resilient support and the blood vessel after the
- 4 allowing step.